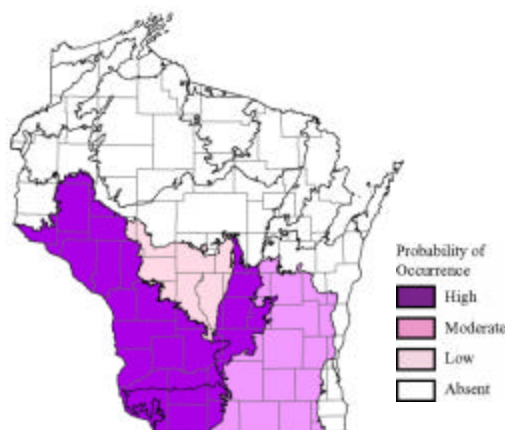


## Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)

### Species Assessment Scores\*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	4
State population trend:	4
Global abundance:	2
Global distribution:	2
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	3.3
Area of importance:	2

\* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



### Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

### Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Surrogate grasslands
Central Sand Hills	Wet-mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southwest Savanna	Dry prairie
Southwest Savanna	Dry-mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Oak opening
Southwest Savanna	Surrogate grasslands
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak opening
Western Coulee and Ridges	Surrogate grasslands

### Threats and Issues

- Intensification of agriculture, especially monocultures. This species benefits from grass-based agriculture mixed with brushy, grassy areas in the landscape.
- Housing and commercial development in rural landscapes fragments habitat.
- Overgrazing lowers habitat quality for this species.

### Priority Conservation Actions

- Private lands initiatives that increase nesting cover and shrub patchiness might help this and other shrub/grassland species. The suitability of cropfields as habitat can be improved by providing adjacent strips of early-successional herbaceous vegetation. Retaining thorny brush on grazed areas provides protection for nesting birds.
- Use of prescribed fire is beneficial. Numbers of individuals are higher in areas managed by fire than those not burned. Prescribed fire increases arthropod abundance and facilitates travel of chicks

through groundcover vegetation. Fire also reduces hardwood encroachment and promotes the sun-loving groundcover plant species essential for food and cover.

- Grazing in quality Northern Bobwhite habitat areas should be avoided.